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APPLICATION OF

**WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY
AND SHENANDOAH GAS DIVISION
OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY**

CASE NO. PUE-2002-00364

**For a general increase in natural gas
rates and charges and approval of
performance-based rate regulation
methodology pursuant to
Va. Code § 56-235.6**

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

August 16, 2002

On August 15, 2002, Washington Gas Light Company ("Washington Gas"), by counsel, filed a Motion for an Extension of Time to Complete Publication of Notice. Pursuant to its Order for Notice and Hearing issued on July 10, 2002, the Commission, among other things, directed Washington Gas to complete its publication of notice on or before August 14, 2002. Washington Gas states that in accordance with the Commission's directive, Washington Gas made arrangements with an advertising agency that it routinely uses for such matters to complete publication of the prescribed notice in newspapers of general circulation throughout the service territories of Washington Gas and the Shenandoah Gas Division of Washington Gas ("Shenandoah Division" and collectively, the "Companies") on August 1, 2002, and August 8, 2002. In contacting the advertising agency on August 15, 2002, to request certificates of publication for filing with the Commission by August 30, 2002, Washington Gas was advised by the agency that while publication of the prescribed notice was completed in newspapers of general circulation throughout the Shenandoah Division's service territory on August 1 and August 8 as requested, publication of the prescribed notice in *The Washington Post*, a newspaper of general circulation in Washington Gas's service territory, was not completed on either date.

Washington Gas states that it has made arrangements to have the prescribed notice published in *The Washington Post* on Saturday, August 17 and again on Monday, August 19, 2002. Washington Gas further states that it completed the mailing of notice requirements on local governmental officials in accordance with, but prior to the date required by Ordering Paragraph (16) of the July 10, 2002, order. Finally, Washington Gas states that since notices of participation are not due under the Commission's procedural schedule until October 16, 2002, the Companies believe no potential participant will be prejudiced by the late publication.

I am of the opinion, and so find, that the Motion for an Extension of Time to Complete Publication filed by Washington Gas should be granted. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED that Washington Gas is hereby granted an extension of five days, until August 19, 2002, to complete publication of the prescribed notice of its application in this proceeding in a newspaper of general circulation throughout its service territory.

Deborah V. Ellenberg
Chief Hearing Examiner